Honouring the Earth Songs

In the fall of 2007, a community of learners created four original songs inspired by traditional Indigenous music of Western Canada and the West Coast. Each song group was supported by an Indigenous songmaker. At the end of the term, the songs were gifted, along with a fifth song created by Bradley Dick, to the Faculty of Education through a ceremony. In addition, four deer-hide hand drums were created and also gifted to the Faculty of Education. The intent of the gifts was to create songs that could be used freely by educators (instructors and students) to learn about and practice the art of Indigenous songmaking. The songs do not belong to any particular Nation or family and therefore can be used and shared freely. However, it is still important to acknowledge their origins as composed by a community of learners in the Fall 2007 Education course called Learning and Teaching in an Indigenous World held on Coast Salish territory or in the case of Bradley Dick’s song, that he be acknowledged as the composer each time it is used.

Indigenous Education in the Faculty of Education wishes to warmly re-confirm the gift of these songs and drums for use by all of those in the Faculty of Education.

Indigenous Education humbly requests the Music Education faculty and instructors to assist in keeping these songs alive with breath, and to promote the well-being of the drums through proper care. Three guides were created in the fall of 2009 to assist with this work: an instructor’s guide, a student guide and a drumkeeper’s guide for the Music Resource room. These guides aim to assist instructors and students to more comfortably use and carry on the songs within the university, out into schools and the community.

Indigenous Education gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Music Education faculty, instructors and Music Resource Room staff in partnering to honour these songs and drums.

Indigenous Education Director

Music Education faculty and sessionals

Dated the _____ day of December, 2009